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EXAMINER	
MAHMOOD, REZWANUL	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

mn

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/806,998	YAGAWA, YUICHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Rezwanul Mahmood	2164	

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *23 October 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-3,5-12,14,15 and 18-26* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-3,5-12,14,15 and 18-26* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/23/2007 has been entered.

Claim Objections

2. Claims1, 6, 20-22 and 26 are objected to because of the following informalities:

3. In claim 1 line 8, the phrase "on esecond" should be "one second".

4. In claims 1, 6, 20-22 and 26 the phrase "its" is objected to.

5. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peters (US Patent 4,999,766) in view of Vaughan (US Publication 2003/0192040).

8. With respect to claim 1, Peters discloses a method for distributing data among a plurality of data storage systems comprising:

producing profile information for a first data object that is stores in a first data storage system, said profile information comprising content-based information associated with said first data object (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1);

However, Peters does not explicitly disclose:

communicating said profile information to at least one second data storage system;

The Vaughan reference, however, discloses communicating profile information to a second computer system (Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to modify the teachings of Peters with the teachings of Vaughan to communicate profile information to one second data storage system for selecting software based on the profile (Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 4-6).

Peters in view of Vaughan discloses:

said at least one second data storage system generating a selection indication based on said profile information and on selection criteria that is maintained at said each second data storage system (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1);

said at least one second data storage system communication its selection indication to said first data storage system (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1); and

selectively copying said first data object to said at least one second data storage system based on its selection indication and on said profile information,

wherein said first data object is copied to said each second data storage system depending on content-based information associated with said first data object (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1).

9. Claims 2, 3, 5-12, 14, 15 and 18-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peters (US Patent 4,999,766) in view of Vaughan (US Publication 2003/0192040) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Wisner (US Publication 2002/0163910).

10. With respect to claim 2, Peters in view of Vaughan discloses the method of claim 1, however, does not explicitly disclose wherein said first data storage system comprises a server component in communication with a data storage component.

The Wisner reference, however, discloses claimed first data storage system comprising a server component in communication with a data storage component (Wisner: Paragraph 9, lines 2-13; Figure 1).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to modify the teachings of Peters and Vaughan with the teachings of Wisner to have a data storage system comprising a server component for a system and method for providing access to resources (Wisner: Paragraph 1, lines 1-2; Paragraph 9, lines 2-7).

11. With respect to claim 3, Peters in view of Vaughan and in further view of Wisner discloses the method of claim 3 wherein said second data storage system comprises a server component in communication with a data storage component (Wisner: Paragraph 9, lines 2-13; Figure 1).

12. With respect to claim 5, Peters in view of Vaughan and in further view of Wisner discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving at said first data storage system the selection indication from each of a plurality of second data storage systems (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1).

wherein said selection indication is an interest metric (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1);

producing an ordered set of said plurality of second data storage systems, ordered according to said interest metric (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1); and

communicating said first data object to the first N of said second data storage systems in said ordered set (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1).

13. With respect to claim 6, Peters in view of Vaughan and in further view of Wisner discloses the method of claim 1, wherein said selection indication is an interest metric, said method further comprising:

communication said first data object to a second data storage system if its interest metric exceeds a predetermined threshold (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1).

14. With respect to claim 7, Peters in view of Vaughan and in further view of Wisner discloses the method of claim 1, wherein said selection indication indicates whether or not to communicate said first data object to said second data storage system (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1).

15. With respect to claim 8, Peters in view of Vaughan and in further view of Wisner discloses the method of claim 1 wherein if said first data object is not copied to a second data storage system, then determining a replication site from among said second data storage systems independently of content of said first data object and copying said first data object to said replication site (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Paragraph 57, lines 1-14; Figure 1).

16. With respect to claim 9, Peters in view of Vaughan and in further view of Wisner discloses the method of claim 18 wherein said selection criteria are stored in said first data storage system, said method further comprising communicating said first data object to said second data storage system based on said profile information and on said selection criteria (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1).

17. With respect to claim 10, Peters in view of Vaughan and in further view of Wisner discloses the method of claim 9 further comprising additional selection criteria for an additional second data storage system, said method further comprising communication said first data object to said additional second data storage system based on said profile information and said additional selection criteria (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1).

18. With respect to claim 11, Peters in view of Vaughan and in further view of Wisner discloses the method of claim 18 wherein said selection criteria are stored in a selection server system separate from said first data storage system and from said second data storage system, said method further comprising:

communicating said profile information to said selection server system (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1); and

receiving a selection indication from said selection server system (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1),

wherein said first data object is selectively communicated to said second data storage system depending on said selection indication (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1).

19. With respect to claim 12, Peters in view of Vaughan and in further view of Wisner discloses a distributed data storage system comprising a plurality of data servers, each data server comprising:

a client interface component configured for communication with one or more clients to exchange data (Wisner: Figure 1; Peters: Figure 1);

a data storage interface component configured for data communication with a data storage component (Wisner: Figure 1; Peters: Figure 1); and

a data processing component configured to:

producing profile information associated with a first data object that is stored in said data storage component, said profile information comprising content-based information associated with content of said first data object (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1);

communicating said profile information to a plurality of candidate data servers (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1;

Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1);

generate, at each of said plurality of candidate data servers, a selection indication based on the profile information and selection criteria maintained at each of said plurality of candidate data servers (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1);

receive the selection indication by said data storage component from each of said candidate data servers (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1); and

copy said first data object to one or more of said candidate data servers based on selection indications received from said candidate data servers (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1),

wherein a selection indication is produced by a candidate data server and is based on selection criteria stored in said candidate data server and on said profile information (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1).

20. With respect to claim 14, Peters in view of Vaughan and in further view of Wisner discloses the data storage system of claim 12 wherein said selection indication is a metric that is based on selection criteria and on said profile information (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines

2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1).

21. With respect to claim 15, Peters in view of Vaughan and in further view of Wisner discloses the data storage system of claim 12 wherein said selection indication is a binary indicator that indicates whether or not to copy said first data object to said second data server (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1).

22. With respect to claim 18, Peters in view of Vaughan and in further view of Wisner discloses a method for distributing data among a plurality of data storage systems comprising:

obtaining selection criteria in a first data storage system (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1);

producing profile information for a first data object that is stored in said first data storage system, said profile information comprising content-based information associated with said first data object (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1); and

communicating the selection criteria and the profile information to at least one second data storage system (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24,

lines 1-15; Figure 1);

generating, at said at least one second data storage system, a selection indication based on the selection criteria and the profile information (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1);

receiving the selection indication by the first data storage system from said at least one second data storage system (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1); and

selectively copying said first data object to said at least one second data storage system based on said selection indication (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1).

23. With respect to claim 19, Peters in view of Vaughan and in further view of Wisner discloses the method of claim 18 further comprising receiving, at said first data storage system, said selection criteria from one or more data storage systems other than said first data storage system (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1).

24. With respect to claim 20, Peters in view of Vaughan and in further view of Wisner discloses a data system comprising:

a plurality of data centers (Peters: Figure 1; Wisner: Figure 1); and

a plurality of client systems in data communication with said data centers (Peters: Figure 1; Wisner: Figure 1),

each data center comprising:

a data storage component (Peters; Figure 1; Wisner: Figure 1);

a file server component operable to exchange data between a client system and said data storage component (Wisner: Figure 1);

a replicator component (Wisner: Figure 1; Figure 3);

a receiver component (Peters: Figure 1; Wisner: Figure 1); and

file selection criteria (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1),

wherein said replicator component is operable to produce profile data for a data object that is to be replicated among one or more candidate target data centers, to communicate said profile data to at least one of said candidate target data centers, to receive a selection indication from each of said candidate target data centers, and to selectively communicate said data object to a candidate target data center based on its selection indication, said profile data representative of content of said data object (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1),

wherein said receiver component is operable to receive the profile data information from a source data center and to generate a selection indication

based on the profile data and selection criteria maintained in said receiver component, said receiver component further operable to communicate the selection indication to said source data center for selectively copying said data object (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1).

25. With respect to claim 21, Peters in view of Vaughan and in further view of Wisner discloses the system of claim 20 wherein said selection indication is an interest metric that is determined based on said file selection criteria and on said profile data, wherein said replicator component is further operable to communicate said data object to a candidate data center based on its interest metric, wherein said candidate target data centers are ordered to produce an ordered set based on their corresponding interest metrics and said replicator component is further operable to communicate said data object to the first N target data centers selected from said ordered set (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1).

26. With respect to claim 22, Peters in view of Vaughan and in further view of Wisner discloses the system of claim 20 wherein said selection indication is an interest metric that is determined based on said file selection criteria and on said profile data, wherein said replicator component is further operable to communicate said data object to a candidate data center based on its interest metric, wherein said replicator component

communicates said data object to a candidate target center if its interest metric exceeds a predetermined threshold (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1).

27. With respect to claim 23, Peters in view of Vaughan and in further view of Wisner discloses the system of claim 20 wherein said selection indication is an indication of whether or not to communicate said data object to said candidate target data center (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1).

28. With respect to claim 24, Peters in view of Vaughan and in further view of Wisner discloses a data system comprising:

a plurality of data centers (Peters: Figure 1; Wisner: Figure 1); and

a plurality of client systems in data communication with said data centers (Peters: Figure 1; Wisner: Figure 1),

each data center comprising:

a data storage component (Peters: Figure 1; Wisner: Figure 1);

a file server component operable to exchange data between a client system and said data storage component (Wisner: Figure 1);

a replicator component (Wisner: Figure 1; Figure 3);

a collection of selection criteria comprising selection criteria provided from other data centers (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines

19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1),

wherein said replicator component is operable to produce profile data for a data object that is to be replicated among one or more candidate target data centers, to communicate said profile data to at least one of said candidate target data centers, and to selectively communicate said data object to said candidate target data centers based on a selection indication corresponding to each of said candidate target data centers, said profile data representative of content of said data object (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1), and

wherein at least one of said candidate target data centers is operable to receive the profile data, calculate the selection indication based on the profile data and said selection criteria, and communicate said selection indication to said replicator component (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1).

29. With respect to claim 25, Peters in view of Vaughan and in further view of Wisner discloses the system of claim 24 wherein said replicator module is operable to produce based on said collection criteria and on said profile data a plurality of interest metrics, each interest metric corresponding a data center, wherein said candidate target data centers are ordered to produce an ordered set based on their corresponding interest

metrics, wherein said replicator component is further operable to communicate said data object to the first N target data centers selected from said ordered set (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1).

30. With respect to claim 26, Peters in view of Vaughan and in further view of Wisner discloses the system of claim 24 wherein said replicator module is operable to produce based on said collection selection criteria and on said profile data a plurality of interest metrics, each interest metric corresponding a data center, wherein said replicator component communicates said data object to a candidate target center if its interest metric exceeds a predetermined threshold (Peters: Column 4, lines 18-29 and 51-64; Column 13, lines 19-44; Claim 1; Vaughan: Paragraph 7, lines 2-6; Figure 1; Wisner: Paragraph 24, lines 1-15; Figure 1).

Remarks

31. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3, 5-12, 14, 15 and 18-26 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

32. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The Shoup reference (US Publication 2002/0147734) teaches about storage policy. The Gupta reference (US Publication 2005/0102273) teaches about interest metrics.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rezwanul Mahmood whose telephone number is (571)272-5625. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 10 A.M. - 5 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on (571)272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Rezwanul Mahmood
Examiner
Art Unit 2164

December 7, 2007

CHARLES RONES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER